

# Gather Us, O God



*Advent to Gather*  
*Advent Together*

Advent Lutheran Church  
8840 University City Blvd  
Charlotte, NC 28213  
(704) 549-1555  
[www.adventlu.org](http://www.adventlu.org)

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## Pastoral Welcome

### Prelude

*"Come Sunday"*

Annette Nolan

### Call to Worship

L: Gather us, O God

**C: And we will know your life that makes us one.**

L: Gather us, O God

**C: And we will celebrate our variety and uniqueness.**

L: Gather us, O God

**C: And we will give you the pain of our brokenness.**

L: Gather us, O God

**C: And we will share the gifts of your Spirit.**

L: Trinity of love braid us as one

**C: That our brokenness be healed by you**

**That our fears be held by you**

**That our gifts be used by you**

**That our lives be offered to you**

**So that the world may know your reign of love. Amen.**

### Sharing the Peace

L: Where people squabble

**C: Peace be among us.**

L: Where races fight

**C: Peace be among us.**

L: Where neighbors argue

**C: Peace be among us.**

L: Where nations disagree

**C: Peace be among us.**

L: Where Christ's disciples gather

**C: Peace be our way.**

L: The peace of the Lord be with you.

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## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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*Refrain*

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

### **Prayer of the Day** (Revised prayer by John van de Laar, *Sacredise*)

L: Lord Jesus, you show us that the law is easy:  
lists to be made and items ticked off as each is fulfilled.

Lord Jesus, you show us that love is messy:  
people to be heard and seen,  
consequences and compassion to be considered.

We've lived too long by law:  
the law of the sword, taking lives to achieve our goals,  
the law of the market, seeking gain without thought of the impact,  
and the law of religion, handing out judgement in your name.

But, the poor and the weak,  
the diseased and the lonely,  
the rejected and the sinful find no healing in our laws.

Lord Jesus, teach us to love as you do:  
enough to defend the helpless and overturn the tables of the powerful  
and enough to sacrifice ourselves, so others may live.

Lord Jesus, teach us to love as you do.

**C: Amen.**

### **The First Reading**

Deuteronomy 4:1-2 & 6-9

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## The Gospel Acclamation

Daniel Pietruszka



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.  
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.  
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## The Holy Scripture

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

## Song of the Day

*"Change My Heart O God"*

Daniel Pietruszka

## The Iona Abbey Creed

L: Now let us confess our faith with the words of the Iona Creed:

**C: We believe in God above us,  
maker and sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon, water and earth,  
of the breadth and beauty of all humanity.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ,  
the Word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor,  
tortured and nailed to a tree.**

**A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.  
He descended into the earth to the place of death.**

**On the third day he rose from the tomb.  
He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present,  
and His kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us,  
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,  
Life-giving breath of the church,  
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
Source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the Faithful**

L: Lord Jesus, you know very well how our traditions can become instruments of judgment rather than tools of your grace. We pray today for all those who have been hurt by our thoughtless insistence that our *particular* way is the *only* right way. Touch the hearts of those who have turned away from you because we have caused your light within us to grow dim.

L: Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Lord Jesus, we weep for Afghanistan – a country ravaged by warfare, turmoil, and violence. We recognize the bravery of those who died to help others be free. We recognize the bravery of those who died, desperate to save themselves in these days. We grieve the lives lost over the past twenty years. May we be filled with your love and compassion, for soldiers and civilians, who have given everything and lost so much. Amid danger and unrest, give us and all our leaders the courage to strive for justice and peace and the perseverance to pray for a world that is safe and secure for all people.

L: Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Gracious God, you call us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own needs. We pray for all our sisters and brothers who seek comfort, healing, refuge, rest, peace, wholeness, community, acceptance, and unconditional love.

L: We especially pray for:

- Amanda Banbridge
- Lemont Bell
- Darren & Wendy Bengé
- Peg Buckstad
- Hagan Colbert
- Dallas Collins
- Troy Dane
- Charliese Eichler
- Dwight Hartsell
- Collette Hishon
- Donnell Horton
- Marylou Kuklantz
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Teresa Ledford

- Ella Libke
- Ray Matthews
- Pastor Henry McKay
- David Park
- Emily Park
- Leo Peeler
- Calvin Roberson
- Richard Schulz
- Susan Severance
- Rashaad Sinclair
- James Smith
- LouAnn Tolson
- David Townsend
- Dale & Sonia Tyson
- John Vick
- Herbert Watson
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams
- Renate Wilson

L: We now pray aloud or in the silence of our hearts for those we wish to name.

*Time for the community to pray.*

L: We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died, especially:

- Eileen Folkerth, mother of Susan Goerke
- Deborah Miller, mother of Esther Abdel-Hameed's son's fiancée
- Derek Poole, friend of Kera Hebert
- Bill Horne, Vice President of the ELCA
- Drew Benge, friend of Mona Ingolia
- Pastor Henry McKay, former Pastor of Advent Lutheran Church

L: By your Holy Spirit, comfort their families, and all who grieve, give peace to those who mourn, strengthen all through the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

L: We give thanks:

- We give thanks for the marriage of Patrick Hough and his wife, Samantha on Aug 21. May their lives together be blessed and a witness to your love for your creation.

L: Gracious God,

**C: You are our hope and strength.**

L: Gracious God, we pray for all healthcare professionals and relief workers, especially with the rapid rise of hospitalizations and the new surge of coronavirus infections. We give thanks for the development and availability of multiple vaccines, and we are bold to pray that those with vaccine hesitancy would choose to be vaccinated. Strengthen, encourage, and comfort us in the days ahead to rest in your peace amid anxiety, frustration, and worry.

L: Gracious God,

**C: You are our hope and strength.**

L: Lord Jesus, we thank you for the refreshing wind of your Holy Spirit. In you we find wholeness for both body and soul, and we pray that this same wholeness will be experienced in the lives and places of all for whom we have prayed.

C: Amen.

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## SHARING THE MEAL

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### Preparing the Table

*"Lamb of God"*

Annette Nolan

### Invitation to the Table

L: The table of bread and wine is now made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Jesus became fully human. So come to the table, all who have much faith and all who would like to have more; all who have been here often and all who have not been in a long time; all who have tried to follow Jesus, and all who have fallen short. Come. It is Christ who invites us all to meet him here.

C: Amen

### The Words of Institution

#### The Lord's Prayer (*spoken*)

C: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### Post-Communion Blessing

L: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us now and forever.

C: Amen.

**Benediction**

- L: May you never feel alone in the struggle for justice and peace.  
May you know the support of family, friends, and people who feel as passionately about the world as you do.
- May you feel a part of the great cloud of witnesses, who through the ages, did God's work and prayed for the coming of the Kingdom.
- May you never feel alone. And if you do, may you carry in your heart the words of Jesus, who told his friends: "I am with you always."
- C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song**

*"Be Thou Near to Me"*

Daniel Pietruszka

- L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C: **Thanks be to God**